

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following includes the entire set of pending claims with markups.

Please amend Claims 1 and 3-6.

Please cancel Claims 2, and 8-24.

1. (currently amended) A conductive coil contact member having at least one tapered end consisting of a plurality of turns of coil wire having a progressively smaller coil radius toward a free end thereof, wherein:

said coil wire comprises a core wire and at least one electrically conductive layer formed over said core wire, a last turn of said coil wire at said free end having a smaller coil radius than would be possible by coiling said coil wire including said core wire and an electrically conductive layer; and

a plurality of layers are formed over said core wire, said layers including at least one highly electrically conductive layer and at least one layer having a favorable mechanical property.

2. (canceled)

3. (currently amended) A conductive coil contact member according to claim [[2]] 1, where said highly electrically conductive layer is made of a member selected from a group consisting of silver, silver alloy, copper and copper alloy.

4. (currently amended) A conductive coil contact member according to claim [[2]] 1, where said layer having a favorable mechanical property is essentially made of nickel.

5. (currently amended) A conductive coil contact member according to claim [[2]] 1, where said layers further include an outer layer made of a member selected from gold, gold alloy, rhodium and rhodium alloy.

6. (currently amended) A conductive coil contact member according to claim [[2]] 1, where said core wire is made of steel.

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7. (original) A conductive coil contact member according to claim 1, where said layer continuously extends between adjacent turns of said coil wire.

8.-24. (canceled)

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